

# Media Alert



CHURCHILL DOWNS

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **TRIPLE CROWN WINNER JUSTIFY TO ARRIVE AT CHURCHILL DOWNS AT 1:15 P.M.**

**What:** Undefeated Triple Crown winner **Justify** will return to Churchill Downs on Monday at approximately 1:15 p.m. (time estimated). The colt's H.E. "Tex" Sutton Forwarding Company charter flight from MacArthur Airport in Islip, N.Y. departed a half-hour early at 11 a.m. EDT and is scheduled to land at Louisville International Airport at 12:48 p.m. EDT.

The Louisville International Airport is staging a video and photo opportunity at the airport, which includes a special water cannon welcome from the Louisville International Airport Department of Public Safety (contact Natalie Chaudoin at 502-475-8084 for media airfield access).

Thereafter, Justify will be loaded onto a van for a three-mile police escort to the backstretch of Churchill Downs (note: the van will enter through Service Gate 9). Justify is expected to unload outside of Hall of Fame trainer **Bob Baffert's** Barn 33 approximately 30-45 minutes after the flight lands between 1:15-1:30 p.m.

Assistant trainer **Jimmy Barnes**, groom **Eduardo "Lalo" Luna** and exercise rider **Humberto Gomez** are expected to accompany Justify on the van ride and flight.

Owned by **WinStar Farm**, **China Horse Club**, **Head of Plains Partners** and **Starlight Racing** and ridden by **Mike Smith**, Justify held off the late charge of **Gronkowski** to win Saturday's Belmont Stakes in Elmont, N.Y. by 1 3/4 lengths and become the 13<sup>th</sup> winner of racing's Triple Crown. His rare sweep included a 2 1/2-length victory in Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve and a hard-fought half-length win in the Preakness Stakes (GI).

Justify is tentatively scheduled to return to his home base at Santa Anita Park in Southern California on Sunday, June 17.

**When:** Monday, June 11 at approximately 1:15 p.m. EDT

**Where:** Churchill Downs Racetrack. Justify will be unloaded from the transport van in front of trainer Bob Baffert's Barn 33. Media should enter through the Churchill Downs Stable Gate off 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

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